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(71) Applicant: MICROSOFT CORPORATION
Redmond, WA 98052 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• Camara, Franc. J.
Redmond, Washington 98052 (US)
• Yuan, Po
Renton, Washington 98056 (US)
• Sadovsky, Vladimir
Bellevue, Washington 98005 (US)

(74) Representative: Grünecker, Kinkeldey,
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser Anwaltssozietät
Maximilianstrasse 58
80538 München (DE)

(54) System and method for controlling mass storage class digital imaging devices

(57) A method is provided for controlling a Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Device using a SCSI pass through protocol. The protocol is based on industry standard SCSI protocol with modifications and extensions to allow transparent communication over a medium and is referred to as SCSI Pass Through (SPT). This protocol defines a set of commands that are initiated in a computer. The commands also include and extend in-

dustry standard Picture Transfer Protocol and are targeted for application and execution in a Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Device. The invention includes the definition of data buffers in the form of data structures that can be used for passing and receiving information related to the digital imaging device. The protocol is applicable to communication mediums that can be utilized in connecting any digital storage device to a computing device.

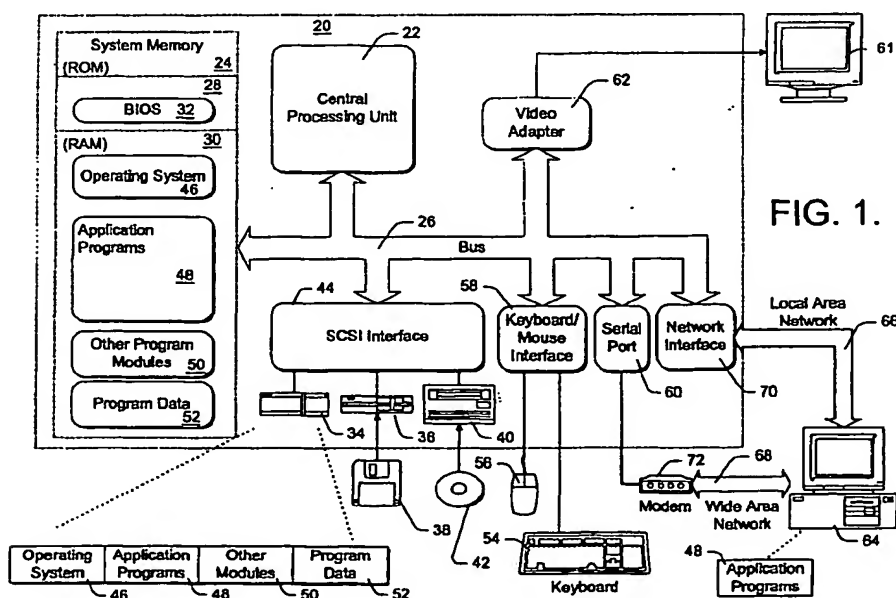


FIG. 1.

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Description

Cross Reference To Related Applications

- 5 [0001] This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application Serial Number 60/240772 filed October 17, 2000.

Field Of The Invention

- 10 [0002] The present invention relates to computer software. More specifically, this invention relates to a system and method for communicating with and controlling mass storage class digital imaging devices.

Background Of The Invention

- 15 [0003] A computer system that can communicate with a mass storage class digital imaging device such as a digital camera is a common arrangement. For example, there are several digital cameras that communicate with personal computers (PCs) however, the methods for accomplishing communication and control are proprietary to each manufacturer. This essentially poses a problem for users because of the multitude of associated interfaces and drivers that are required for the various brands and models of cameras on the market.

- 20 [0004] One attempt to resolve this problem was the introduction of a standard protocol to be utilized by manufacturers, namely the USB Mass Storage Class Device specification. The implementation of a digital camera in accordance with the afore mentioned specification provides the benefit of allowing an operating system with native driver support to provide 'Plug and Play' experience for the user. The implementation also allows such a conforming device to appear on the PC as a storage device and allows the user to copy files to or from the device. However, a digital camera
25 potentially has several files which are not related to stored images and as such, the user will be presented with a multitude of files through which they must navigate in order to obtain the image file of interest. A further drawback of the implementation of the USB Mass Storage Class Device specification is the inability to actually control the device. For example, under existing support for cameras, it is not possible to set the clock on the camera from PC. This and other specific controls that could benefit a user are not available under the presently available implementations for uniform camera support. For example, a user may desire to perform live capture, query the camera or adjust a camera
30 property setting. Presently, none of these functions are possible with the existing USB Mass Storage Class Device specification. Instead, a specific driver or application from the manufacturer is required in order to accomplish these tasks.

- [0005] Accordingly, there exists a need for a method that allows Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Devices, particularly cameras to take advantage of interfaces and features that are a part of the user experience. An extensible control protocol is needed for controlling most common tasks in these digital content devices such as a Mass Storage Class Digital Camera, without the need for manufacturers to develop custom control software. In other words, manufacturers that implement the control protocol on their devices will be able to benefit from the ability to have the device controlled by an operating system application such as Windows Image Acquisition wizard (WIA) or by other programs
35 through an application program interface (API) defined within an operating system.

Summary Of The Invention

- 45 [0006] In one aspect, the present invention is directed to a method of communicating with a Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Device. The method provides a protocol that allows the control of a digital imaging device that is coupled to a computer. The protocol is based on industry standard SCSI protocol with modifications and extensions to allow transparent communication over a connection medium and is referred to as SCSI Pass Through (SPT).

- [0007] In another aspect, the present invention is directed to the definition of a set of commands that are initiated in a computer, include and extend industry standard Picture Transfer Protocol and are targeted for application and execution in a Mass Storage Class Digital Camera.
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[0008] In a further aspect, the present invention is directed to the control of a digital camera using the afore mentioned protocol and commands which together are designated as the SCSI Pass Through Camera Commands Protocol (SPTCCP).

- [0009] In yet another aspect, the present invention is directed to the definition of data buffers in the form of data structures that can be used for passing and receiving information related to the digital imaging device.
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Brief Description Of The Several Views Of The Drawings

[0010] The present invention is described in detail below with reference to the attached drawing figures, wherein:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a suitable computing system environment for use in implementing the present invention;
 FIG. 2 is a block diagram illustration of the architecture of communication between an application program and a USB Mass Storage Class Digital Camera device (MSC).
 FIG. 3 is an illustration of a data structure utilized in sending commands to MSC.

Detailed Description Of The Invention

[0011] The present invention provides a system and method for controlling a Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Device such as a Mass Storage Class Digital Camera (MSC) or other similar digital content devices that contain a structured file system, such as certain types of hard drives, compact disk devices etc. The particular embodiments described herein are intended in all respects to be illustrative rather than restrictive. Alternate embodiments will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which the present invention pertains without departing from its scope. FIG. 1 illustrates an example of a suitable computing system environment in which the invention may be implemented. The computing system environment is only one example of a suitable computing environment and is not intended to suggest any limitation as to the scope of use or functionality of the invention. Neither should the computing environment be interpreted as having any dependency or requirement relating to any one or combination of components illustrated in the exemplary operating environment.

[0012] The invention is operational with numerous other general purpose or special purpose computing system environments or configurations. Examples of well known computing systems, environments, and/or configurations that may be suitable for use with the invention include, but are not limited to, personal computers, server computers, handheld or laptop devices, multiprocessor systems, microprocessor-based systems, programmable consumer electronics, network PCs, minicomputers, mainframe computers, distributed computing environments that include any of the above systems or devices, and the like.

[0013] The invention may be described in the general context of computer-executable instructions, such as program modules, being executed by a computer. Generally, program modules include routines, programs, objects, components, data structures, etc. that perform particular tasks or implement particular abstract data types. The invention may also be practiced in distributed computing environments where tasks are performed by remote processing devices that are linked through a communications network. In a distributed computing environment, program modules may be located in both local and remote computer storage media including memory storage devices.

[0014] With reference to FIG. 1, an exemplary system for implementing the invention includes a general purpose computing device in the form of a computer 20. Components of computer 20 include, but are not limited to, a processing unit 22, a system memory 24, and a system bus 26 that couples various system components including the system memory to the processing unit 22. The system bus 26 may be any of several types of bus structures including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures. By way of example, and not limitation, such architectures include Industry Standard Architecture (ISA) bus, Micro Channel Architecture (MCA) bus, Enhanced ISA (EISA) bus, Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA) local bus, and Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) bus also known as Mezzanine bus.

[0015] Computer 20 typically includes a variety of computer readable media. Computer readable media can be any available media that can be accessed by computer 20 and includes both volatile and nonvolatile media, removable and non-removable media. By way of example, and not limitation, computer readable media may comprise computer storage media and communication media. Computer storage media includes both volatile and nonvolatile, removable and non-removable media implemented in any method or technology for storage of information such as computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other data. Computer storage media includes, but is not limited to, RAM, ROM, EEPROM, flash memory or other memory technology, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical disk storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, or any other medium which can be used to store the desired information and which can be accessed by computer 20. Communication media typically embodies computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules or other data in a modulated data signal such as a carrier wave or other transport mechanism and includes any information delivery media. The term "modulated data signal" means a signal that has one or more of its characteristics set or changed in such a manner as to encode information in the signal. By way of example, and not limitation, communication media includes wired media such as a wired network or direct wired connection, and wireless media such as acoustic, RF, infrared and other wireless media. Combinations of any of the above should also be included within the scope of computer readable media.

[0016] The system memory 24 includes computer storage media in the form of volatile and/or nonvolatile memory

such as read only memory (ROM) 28 and random access memory (RAM) 30. A basic input/output system 32 (BIOS), containing the basic routines that help to transfer information between elements within computer 20, such as during start-up, is typically stored in ROM 28. RAM 30 typically contains data and/or program modules that are immediately accessible to and/or presently being operated on by processing unit 22. By way of example, and not limitation, FIG. 1 illustrates operating system 46, application programs 48, other program modules 50, and program data 52.

[0017] The computer 20 may also include other removable/non-removable, volatile/nonvolatile computer storage media. By way of example only, FIG. 1 illustrates a hard disk drive 34 that reads from or writes to non-removable, nonvolatile magnetic media, a magnetic disk drive 36 that reads from or writes to removable, nonvolatile magnetic disk 38, and an optical disk drive 40 that reads from or writes to a removable, nonvolatile optical disk 42 such as a CD ROM or other optical media. Other removable/non-removable, volatile/nonvolatile computer storage media that can be used in the exemplary operating environment include, but are not limited to, magnetic tape cassettes, flash memory cards, digital video disks, digital video tape, Bernoulli cartridges, solid state RAM, solid state ROM, and the like. The hard disk drive 34, magnetic disk drive 36, and optical disk drive 40 are typically connected to the system bus 26 by a Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) 44. Alternatively, the hard disk drive 34, magnetic disk drive 36 and optical disk drive 40 may be connected to the system bus 26 by a hard disk drive interface, a magnetic disk drive interface, and an optical drive interface, respectively.

[0018] The drives and their associated computer storage media discussed above and illustrated in FIG. 1, provide storage of computer readable instructions, data structures, program modules and other data for the computer 20. In FIG. 1, for example, hard disk drive 34 is illustrated as storing operating system 46, application programs 48, other program modules 50, and program data 52. Note that these components can either be the same as or different from operating system 46, application programs 48, other program modules 50, and program data 52. A user may enter commands and information into the computer 20 through input devices such as a keyboard 54 and pointing device 56, commonly referred to as a mouse, trackball or touch pad. Other input devices (not shown) may include a microphone, joystick, game pad, satellite dish, scanner, or the like. These and other input devices are often connected to the processing unit 22 through a user input interface 58 or a serial port interface 60 that is coupled to the system bus, but may be connected by other interface and bus structures, such as a parallel port, game port or a universal serial bus (USB). A monitor 61 or other type of display device is also connected to the system bus 26 via an interface, such as a video adapter 62. In addition to the monitor 61, computers may also include other peripheral output devices such as speakers and printers, which may be connected through an output peripheral interface.

[0019] The computer 20 may operate in a networked environment using logical connections to one or more remote computers, such as a remote computer 64. The remote computer 64 may be a personal computer, a server, a router, a network PC, a peer device or other common network node, and typically includes many or all of the elements described above relative to the computer 20, although only a memory storage device has been illustrated in FIG. 1. The logical connections depicted in FIG. 1 include a local area network (LAN) 66 and a wide area network (WAN) 68, but may also include other networks. Such networking environments are commonplace in offices, enterprise-wide computer networks, intranets and the Internet.

[0020] When used in a LAN networking environment, the computer 20 is connected to the LAN 66 through a network interface or adapter 70. When used in a WAN networking environment, the computer 20 typically includes a modem 72 or other means for establishing communications over the WAN 68, such as the Internet. The modem 72, which may be internal or external, may be connected to the system bus 26 via the serial port interface 60 or other appropriate mechanism. In a networked environment, program modules depicted relative to the computer 20, or portions thereof, may be stored in the remote memory storage device. By way of example, and not limitation, FIG. 1 illustrates remote application programs 48 as residing on memory device 64. It will be appreciated that the network connections shown are exemplary and other means of establishing a communications link between the computers may be used.

[0021] Although many other internal components of the computer 20 are not shown, those of ordinary skill in the art will appreciate that such components and the interconnection are well known. Accordingly, additional details concerning the internal construction of the computer 20 need not be disclosed in connection with the present invention.

[0022] Those skilled in the art will understand that program modules such as the operating system 46, application programs 48 and data 52 are provided to the computer 20 via one of its memory storage devices, which may include ROM 28, RAM 30, hard disk drive 34, magnetic disk drive 36 or optical disk drive 40. Preferably, the hard disk drive 34 is used to store data 52 and programs, including the operating system 46 and application programs 48.

[0023] When the computer 20 is turned on or reset, the BIOS 32, which is stored in the ROM 28 instructs the processing unit 22 to load the operating system from the hard disk drive 34 into the RAM 30. Once the operating system 46 is loaded in RAM 30, the processing unit 22 executes the operating system code and causes the visual elements associated with the user interface of the operating system 46 to be displayed on the monitor 61. When an application program 48 is opened by a user, the program code and relevant data are read from the hard disk drive 34 and stored in RAM 30.

[0024] In FIG. 2, an exemplary illustration of an architecture for practicing the present invention is shown. There are

three components that make up the referenced architecture namely the user component 250, the Kernel component 260 and the external USB Mass Storage Class Digital Camera (MSC) 224. The present invention is implemented in the user component 250 and uses existing architecture and methods within the Kernel 260, to communicate to firmware implementation within MSC 224 via a USB connection 222. It should be noted that the method of the present invention is independent of the physical bus medium by which a device is connected to the PC. The present invention is also applicable to perform other functions such as previously discussed, wherein a PC application such as Windows Explorer 200 can be used via a file system interface 214 to communicate with the kernel and ultimately display a representation of the MSC device 224 and its associated file system 228.

[0025] An embodiment of the present invention is directed at controlling the MSC device 224 through commands that are initiated by the Windows Image Acquisition (WIA) Wizard and other WIA enabled applications 210. The initiated commands are packaged as SCSI Pass-through commands by the Mass Storage Driver for Digital Cameras 212 and then transparently passed through the User mode file system interface 214, the kernel components 260, and the USB Cable 222 into the MSC 224. The destination of the discussed commands is the control firmware 226 of the MSC 224. The firmware 226 contains manufacturer provided hardware and software that is aware and able to decipher the SCSI Pass Through Camera Commands Protocol (SPTCCP) to obtain the underlying device control command, such as standard Photo Imaging Marketing Association (PIMA) Picture Transfer Protocol (PTP) commands. The intended command is obtained and then executed by the control system 230 that is located within MSC 224. Any associated responses are delivered back to the initiating application through a reverse of the process described above.

[0026] In general, a protocol is defined by how information is exchanged between two or more devices by using various bits and elements of data that are structured and related to each other. Likewise, within SPTCCP protocol there is a defined data structure that is used for the exchange of information. Because SPTCCP has as its underlying basis the SCSI protocol, the elements of the SPTCCP structure are derived from and compatible with those found in SCSI. A typical SCSI Pass Through data structure is defined as follows in C/C++ form:

```
typedef struct SCSI_PASS_THROUGH_DIRECT{
    USHORT      Length;
    UCHAR       ScsiStatus;
    UCHAR       PathId;
    UCHAR       TargetId;
    UCHAR       Lun;
    UCHAR       Cdblength;
    UCHAR       SenseInfoLength;
    UCHAR       DataIn;
    ULONG       DataTransferLength;
    ULONG       TimeoutValue;
    PVOID       DataBuffer;
    ULONG       SenseInfoOffset;
    UCHAR       Cdb[16];
}SCSI_PASS_THROUGH_DIRECT, *
```

PSCSI_PASS_THROUGH_DIRECT

[0027] The SCSI Pass Through structure including data buffers and other elements are translated into driver space and passed through to the target device. The DataBuffer and the Cdb from the structure shown above, contain the information that define the command protocol for MSC 224. In other words SPTCCP is defined by the specification and arrangement of bits within the Cdb and the DataBuffer. Cdb is the command descriptor block that contains the SCSI commands and parameters. In an embodiment of this invention, the 6-byte long Cdb otherwise known as Group 0 Cdb, is used to define the protocol. Thus with reference to the pass through structure discussed and illustrated above, only the first 6 bytes of the 16 byte Cdb within the pass through structure are utilized. The content of these 6 bytes determine the type and format of commands destined for the MSC 224. A discussion on the specific structure of Cdb is necessary to provide an understanding of the protocol of the present invention.

[0028] FIG 3 is an illustration of the Cdb generally designated as 300, used by SPTCCP for communication with a MSC. As shown, each byte 301-306 is designated to hold a particular type of information. Within each byte, the information may be represented by individual bits or a group of bits. For example, Byte0 301 is designated to hold the

Operation Code for a particular command. The Operation Code consists of a Group code and a Command code, thus within Byte0 301, 5 bits (Bit0 - Bit4) are used to represent the Command code, and 3 bits (Bit5 - Bit7) are used to represent the Group code.

[0029] The command codes that are available or used in SPTCCP are dictated by both the SCSI committee and the target device, in this case MSC. In an embodiment of this invention, there are four mandatory command codes associated with MSC. Each of these commands is sent to the device by populating the Cdb structure with appropriate parameters. This means that Byte0 will be populated with the appropriate command for MSC. The following table summarizes commands for camera devices. The camera device category is one of the device types (such as Direct-access Devices, Printer Devices, and Scanner Devices) defined in the SCSI-2 specification. These command and operations may also be extended in the future. The following are operation codes that can be supported by MSC devices:

Command name	Operation code	Req.
TEST UNIT READY	00h	M
SEND DIAGNOSTIC	1Dh	M
REQUEST SENSE	03h	M
INQUIRY	12h	M
READ INFO	E0h	M
WRITE INFO	E1h	O
START STOP CAPTURE	E2h	O
RESET DEVICE	DFh	O
Key: M = command implementation is mandatory for SPTCCP. O = command implementation is optional, but recommended for SPTCCP.		

[0030] This list of operation codes can be extended by vendors to define new functions. However, the above codes must behave as defined in order for a device to be considered an SPTCCP device.

[0031] Also with reference to FIG. 3, Byte1 (302) is the storage location for the Logical Unit Number (LUN) of the target device. Because this invention uses SCSI type commands, there is a need to conform to SCSI standards. There is a requirement within SCSI protocol that each device must have a unique identification on the network and this address is referred to as the LUN, and typically ranges from 0-15. Byte2 (303) is the storage location for the first of three parameters that can be passed by a Cdb. In one embodiment of this invention, that location is used to store Page Code, a memory address. Byte3 (304) is normally reserved but is sometime used depending on the command to store the lo-byte of a code. Byte4 (305) holds the information on the length of any data that may be associated with the underlying command. A discussion to be found later on in this document about the four commands will better illustrate this concept. Byte5 (306) holds control type of information which consists of a link bit, a flag, a reserved number of bits and information that is specific to the vendor.

[0032] As previously discussed, for each of the previously mentioned SCSI command codes used in SPTCCP there are specific entries that are made in the Cdb and in some cases there is also a data buffer structure and a reply structure associated with the command. The format and content of these entries and structures define SPTCCP. As such, to more fully describe the protocol for communicating and controlling MSC devices, it is necessary to discuss some specific commands and responses in terms of how the commands are structured within the Cdb buffer and what parameters are provided by and between the initiating device i.e. the PC, and the target device i.e. MSC. While the general content of the Cdb associated with each command will not be discussed in any great detail, some parameters may be commented on because of a unique feature or importance to the protocol. It is understood by those skilled in the art that variations of these specifications are within the scope of the invention.

[0033] The first of such commands for MSC is Test Unit Ready which is designated by a specific hexadecimal code - 00H. This command reports whether a target device is ready to execute commands. As discussed earlier, the first 6 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with a specific layout. The following layout describes the Cdb associated with the Test Unit Read command.

	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0	
Byte0: Operation Code	00H								
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN				Reserved				
Byte2: Parameters 1	Reserved								
Byte3: Parameters 2	Reserved								
Byte4: Parameters 3	Reserved								
Byte5: Control field	Vendor Specific				Reserved			Flag	Link

[0034] Within SPTCCP this is the simplest command because it has very limited responses and it also has no requirement for a data buffer. The control field Byte5 is set to zero as there is little need for any vendor linked commands. Test Unit Ready returns a status code of 00H (Good) if the device is ready to execute commands or it returns 01H (Check Condition) if the device is not ready.

[0035] The second MSC command is Inquiry, which is designated by the hexadecimal code-12H. This command requests that the target device, in this case MSC identify the device manufacturer, model information, serial number, and other such information. In this case, the first 6 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0	
Byte0: Operation Code	12H								
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN			Reserved				EVPD	
Byte2: Parameters 1	Page Code								
Byte3: Parameters 2	Reserved								
Byte4: Parameters 3	Allocation length								
Byte5: Control field	Vendor Specific			Reserved				Flag	Link

[0036] As previously noted, the protocol and method of this invention are applicable to other devices. As such, the various commands that are being discussed can also be tailored to a specific device. In this instance, for MSC devices, the Inquiry command is recommended to be implemented as two Inquiry cases, wherein specific bits in the layout shown above are set to predetermined values. One case is the standard query command, wherein Bit0 of Byte 1 the EVPD is set to 0 and Byte2 the Page Code is also set to 0. The other case is the unit serial number command where the EVPD is set to 1 and the Page Code is set to 80H.

[0037] Each of these command cases generates a different response from the MSC device. In particular, the standard query command returns a data buffer that has the following data structure:

Byte	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0
0	Peripheral qualifier				Device type code			
1	RMB	Device type modifier						
2	ISO version				ECMA version		ANSI approved version	
3	AENC		TmIOP		Reserved		Response data format	

4	Additional data length							
5	Reserved							
6	Reserved							
7	RelAdr	Wbus32	Wbus16	Sync	Linked	Reserved	CmdQue	SfRs
8-15	Vendor identification string							
16-31	Product identification string							
32-35	Product revision level string							
36-55	Vendor-specific information string							
56-95	Reserved							
96-end	Vendor-specific data							

[0038] It should be noted that the definitions and meanings of the indicated fields in the structure above conform to standard SCSI2 specifications. The details of SCSI2 specifications are beyond the scope of this application and as such will not be discussed in any detail.

[0039] In the case of the unit serial number command, the returned page also conforms with SCSI2 specifications and has the following data structure:

Byte	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0
0	Peripheral qualifier				Device type code			
1	Page Code (80H)							
2	Reserved							
3	Page length (n-3)							
4	Product serial number							
N								

[0040] Here again, the layout and content of the returned data structure is dictated by a standard that is beyond the scope of this document. The particulars of the information contained in the above illustrations and their usefulness are known to those skilled in the art.

[0041] The third MSC command is Request Sense, which is designated by the hexadecimal code 03H. This command allows an initiator such as a PC to report error information. The error could be related to a current operation or the most recent operation. Information is transferred from the target device such as a camera to the initiator.

[0042] The content of the various bytes are specific to the target device and determine the interpretation of the received information. The first 6 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0	
Byte0: Operation Code	03H								
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN				Reserved				
Byte2: Parameters 1	Reserved								
Byte3: Parameters 2	Reserved								
Byte4: Parameters 3	Allocation Length								
Byte5: Control field	Vendor Specific			Reserved				Flag	Link

[0043] Request sense by sending the command to the target. The response from MSC+ device should follow SCSI-2 specification, but only sense data corresponding to Error Codes 70h is required to be implemented. For SPTCCP devices, the sense data format is illustrated in the following table.

	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0
Byte0:	Valid=0		70h					
Byte1:	Reserved							
Byte2:	Reserved					Sense Key=9h		
Byte3-6:	Information							
Byte7:	Additional sense length (n-7)							
Byte8-11:	Command-specific information							
Byte12:	Additional sense code = 80h							
Byte13:	Additional sense code qualifier = ResponseCode							
Byte14:	Field replaceable unit code = 0							
Byte15-17:	Sense-key specific = 0							
Byte18-n:	Additional sense bytes							

[0044] A Valid bit of zero indicates that the information filed is not as defined in the SCSI-2 specification. Since

camera devices is not included in SCSI-2 specification yet, and the device-specific information field is not defined in this document, the Valid bit should be set to zero by the target.

[0045] The combination of Additional sense code and Additional sense code qualifier is used to indicate the error condition. When issuing SPTCCP specific commands (E0h, E1h, E2h, DFh), Sense Key should be set to 9h and Additional Sense Code is set to 80h to denote vendor-specific, and the Additional sense code qualifier is defined in the following table:

Response Code	Description
0x01	OK
0x02	General Error
0x05	Operation Not Supported
0x06	Parameter Not Supported
0x0A	DeviceProp Not Supported
0x0C	Store Full
0x0F	Access Denied
0x11	SelfTest Failed
0x16	Invalid Code Format
0x18	Capture Already Terminated
0x19	Device Busy
0x1B	Invalid DeviceProp Format
0x1C	Invalid DeviceProp Value
0x1D	Invalid Parameter
All codes greater than 0x2F	Vendor-Extended Response Code

[0046] The fourth MSC command is Read Info, designated by the hexadecimal code-E0H. This command allows an Initiator such as a PC to request transfer of data from a target device such as a camera.. With this command, the first 10 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

	Byte0	Byte1	Byte2	Byte3	Byte4	Byte5	Byte6	Byte7	Byte8	Byte9
Byte0: Operation Code	E0h									
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN				Reserved					
Byte2: Parameters 1	SCSI DataTypeCode									
Byte3: Parameters 2	Reserved									
Byte4: Parameters 3	Data Type Qualifier									
Byte5:										
Byte6: Parameters 4										
Byte7:										
Byte8:	Data transfer length									
Byte9: Control field										
	Vendor Specific				Reserved				Flag	Link

[0047] The SCSI DataTypeCode distinguishes between the different types of data that may be transferred between the initiator and the target. The types of transfers are specified in the following table:

Code	Description
00h	Image
01h	Vendor-specific
02h	Reserved
03h	Reserved

04h-7Fh	Reserved
80h	Device Information
81h	Device Property Description
82h	Device Property Value
83h - FFh	Vendor-specific

[0048] The Data Type Qualifier field provides means to differentiate data transfers of the same data type code. For SPTCCP devices, it is only used when Data Type Code is 81h or 82h, where the Data Type Qualifier equals the Device Property Code listed later in this document.

[0049] The data buffer should contain the data in the format determined by the native data type. The native data types corresponding to each device property code are also listed in the next chapter of this document:

Byte	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0
0	Data Buffer Length (n-2)							
1								
2								
3	Native Data Type Code of the following data							
4								
N	Data							

[0050] The fifth MSC command is Send Diagnostic, designated by the hexadecimal code 1Dh. This command requests the target to perform diagnostic operations on itself. The data transfer direction is from Initiator to Target. The first 6 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

Byte	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0
Byte0: Operation Code	1Dh							
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN				PF	Reserved	SelfTest	DevOFL
Byte2: Parameters 1	Reserved							
Byte3: Parameters 2	Parameter list length							
Byte4: Parameters 3								
Byte5: Control field	Vendor Specific		Reserved				Flag	Link

[0051] A PF bit of one indicates that the parameters confirm to SCSI-2 standard, a zero means SCSI-1.

[0052] A SelfTest bit of one directs the target to complete its default selftest, a zero requests that the target perform the diagnostic operation specified in the parameter list.

[0053] The sixth MSC command is Write Info, designated by the hexadecimal code - E1H. The Write Info command sends transfer data from the initiator to the target. This command is defined to use a 10-byte CDB. The data transfer direction is from Initiator to Target. The first 10 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

	Byte0	Byte1	Byte2	Byte3	Byte4	Byte5	Byte6	Byte7	Byte8	Byte9
Byte0: Operation Code	E1h									
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN					Reserved				
Byte2: Parameters 1	SCSI DataTypeCode									
Byte3: Parameters 2	Reserved									
Byte4: Parameters 3	Data Type Qualifier									
Byte5:										
Byte6: Parameters 4										
Byte7:										
Byte8:	Data transfer length									
Byte9: Control field										
	Vendor Specific				Reserved				Flag	Link

[0054] The SCSI DataTypeCode, Data Type Qualifier, and data buffer layout are the same as defined in the READ command above. If a SCSI DataTypeCode and a Data Type Qualifier are both defined, but the Data Transfer Length is set to zero, then this command resets the default value of that particular device property.

[0055] The seventh MSC command is Start Stop Capture, which is designated by the hexadecimal code - E2H. This command requests the target device to capture images according to the manner specified through parameters. This command is defined to use 10-byte CDB. The data buffer, if specifically defined by vendor, has its transfer direction as from Target to Initiator. The first 10 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

	Bit7	Bit6	Bit5	Bit4	Bit3	Bit2	Bit1	Bit0	
Byte0: Operation Code	E2h								
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN				Reserved				
Byte2: Parameters 1	Capture Type Code								
Byte3: Parameters 2	VSP		Reserved						
Byte4: Parameters 3	Capture Format Code								
Byte5:									
Byte6: Parameters 4	Optional Vendor specific parameter Buffer Length.								
Byte7:									
Byte8:									
Byte9: Control field	Vendor Specific			Reserved				Flag	Link

[0056] The Capture Type Code defines the behavior of the capturing functions on the target:

Capture Type Code	Description
0	Capture a single image
1	Initiate Open Capture
2	Terminate Open Capture

[0057] The capture format code, if non-zero, will advise the device the Initiator preferred capture format. If the target is unable to capture in that format, it should return error and set the response code to be "Operation Not Supported". If the capture format code is zero, the target will capture in its default format. Clearing VSP bit and Parameter 4 to indicate that there is no vendor-specific parameter buffer. The VSP bit of 1 indicates that Parameter 4 has meaningful vendor specific parameter buffer. This parameter could be useful, for example, if vendor wants to use it to communicate the status and location of the captured picture file on the device.

[0058] The eighth MSC command is Reset Device, which is designated by the hexadecimal code - E2H. This command requests the target to reset its state to the default state. This command is defined to use 6-byte CDB. The first 6 bytes of the Cdb are populated and structured with the following layout:

Byte0: Operation Code	DFh	
Byte1: Logical Unit Number	LUN	Reserved
Byte2: Parameters 1	Reserved	

Byte3: Parameters 2	Reserved			
Byte4: Parameters 3	Reserved			
Byte5: Control field	Vendor Specific	Reserved	Flag	Link

[0059] This is a simple command with no data buffer.

[0060] Earlier in this document, there were references made to operational codes, response codes and property codes. This portion of the document will provide some additional detail on those codes. Operation codes are primarily relevant for the Mode Select and Mode Sense command. There are a limited number of allowable Operation Codes for an MSC device. Some codes and the associated relevant operations are shown below:

Operation Code	Operation Name
0x1001	GetDeviceInfo
0x1014	GetDevicePropDesc
0x1015	GetDevicePropValue

[0061] With regard to response codes, SPTCCP utilizes a subset of PIMA PTP command codes and data types, and also provides its own selections and extensions. The response codes within SPTCCP are also adapted from the PTP specification although only a subset of the original response codes are used. The following table illustrates current response codes and the associated descriptions that are supported by SPTCCP.

Response Code	Description
0x01	OK
0x02	General Error
0x05	Operation Not Supported
0x06	Parameter Not Supported
0x0A	DeviceProp Not Supported
0x0C	Store Full
0x0F	Access Denied
0x11	SelfTest Failed
0x16	Invalid Code Format
0x18	Capture Already Terminated
0x19	Device Busy
0x1B	Invalid DeviceProp Format
0x1C	Invalid DeviceProp Value
0x1D	Invalid Parameter
All codes greater than 0x2F	Vendor-Extended Response Code

[0062] In addition to the above described codes, there are four other categories of codes supported by PIMA PTP namely, Event codes, Device property codes, Object Format codes and Data type codes. Each of these code categories enable certain type of information to be obtained and exchanged between the initiating and target devices. To the extent that a particular category is either supported or not supported within SPTCCP, this document will identify such categories but will not provide the details of the specific category since this information can be found in other materials that define PTP commands, such as PIMA 15740 Version 1.0 - Photography Electronic still picture imaging Picture

Transfer Protocol for Digital Still Photography Device. This source and other similar sources that define PTP commands are expressly incorporated in this document.

[0063] SPTCCP does not support events communication between the Initiator and the Target as does PTP there are therefore no Event Codes defined within SPTCCP. On the other hand, device property codes, also known as Device-PropCode as previously discussed, describe the properties of the target that might be set or retrieved through SPTCCP. The following codes and description are an illustrative list of currently supported device property codes:

DevicePropCode	Name
0x5000	Undefined
0x5001	BatteryLevel
0x5002	FunctionalMode
0x5003	ImageSize
0x5004	CompressionSetting
0x5005	WhiteBalance
0x5006	RGB Gain
0x5007	F-Number
0x5008	FocalLength
0x5009	FocusDistance
0x500A	FocusMode
0x500B	ExposureMeteringMode
0x500C	FlashMode
0x500D	ExposureTime
0x500E	ExposureProgramMode
0x500F	ExposureIndex
0x5010	ExposureBiasCompensation
0x5011	DateTime
0x5012	CaptureDelay
0x5013	StillCaptureMode
0x5014	Contrast
0x5015	Sharpness
0x5016	DigitalZoom
0x5017	EffectMode
0x5018	BurstNumber
0x5019	BurstInterval
0x501A	TimelapseNumber
0x501B	TimelapseInterval
0x501C	FocusMeteringMode
0x501D	UploadURL
0x501E	Artist
0x501F	CopyrightInfo
All other codes with MSN of 0101	Reserved
All codes with MSN of 1101	Vendor-Extended Response Code

[0064] SPTCCP does not support the data object concept of PTP. However, ObjectFormatCodes are used with Get-DeviceInfo operation to get information on the image storage file format. The following table illustrates available and supported object format codes.

Object Code	Type	Format	Description
0x3000	A	Undefined	Undefined
0x3001	A	Association	Association (e.g. folder)
0x3002	A	Script	Device-model-specific script
0x3003	A	Executable	Device-model-specific binary executable
0x3004	A	Text	Text file
0x3005	A	HTML	HyperText Markup Language file (text)
0x3006	A	DPOF	Digital Print Order Format File (text)
0x3007	A	AIFF	Audio Clip
0x3008	A	WAV	Audio Clip
0x3009	A	MP3	Audio Clip
0x300A	A	AVI	Video Clip
0x300B	A	MPEG	Video Clip
0x300C	A	ASF	Microsoft Advanced Streaming Format (video)
0x3800	I	Undefined	Unknown Image Format
0x3801	I	EXIF/JPEG	Exchangable File Format, JEIDA standard
0x3802	I	TIFF/EP	Tag Image File Format for Electronic Photography
0x3803	I	FlashPix	Structured Storage Image Format
0x3804	I	BMP	Microsoft Windows Bitmap File
0x3805	I	CIFF	Cannon Camera Image File Format
0x3806	I	Undefined	Reserved
0x3807	I	GIF	Graphics Interchange Format
0x3808	I	JFIF	JPEG File Exchange Format
0x3809	I	PCD	PhotoCD Image Pac
0x380A	I	PICT	QuickDraw Image Format

0x380B	I	PNG	Portable Network Graphics
0x380C	I	Undefined	Reserved
0x380D	I	TIFF	Tag Image File Format
0x380E	I	TIFF/IT	Tag Image File Format for Information Technology (graphics arts)
0x380F	I	JP2	JPEG2000 Baseline File Format
0x3810	I	JPX	JPEG2000 Extended File Format
All other codes with MSN of 0011	Any	Undefined	Reserved for future use
All codes with MSN of 1011	Any	Vendor-Defined	Vendor-Defined

[0065] Another adaptation from PTP specification is the Data type codes. The data type codes within SPTCCP contain some extensions for MSC specific structures. All data types use Big-Endian byte order in memory. The following table lists for illustrative purposes, supported data type codes and their associated descriptions:

Data type code	Type	Description
0x0000		Undefined
0x0001	INT8	Signed 8 bit integer
0x0002	UINT8	Unsigned 8 bit integer
0x0003	INT16	Signed 16 bit integer
0x0004	UINT16	Unsigned 16 bit integer
0x0005	INT32	Signed 32 bit integer
0x0006	UINT32	Unsigned 32 bit integer
0x0007	INT64	Signed 64 bit integer
0x0008	UINT64	Unsigned 64 bit integer
0x0009	INT128	Signed 128 bit integer
0x000A	UINT128	Unsigned 128 bit integer
0x4001	AINT8	Array of Signed 8 bit integer
0x4002	AUINT8	Array of Unsigned 8 bit integer
0x4003	AINT16	Array of Signed 16 bit integer
0x4004	AUINT16	Array of Unsigned 16 bit integer
0x4005	AINT32	Array of Signed 32 bit integer
0x4006	AUINT32	Array of Unsigned 32 bit integer
0x4007	AINT64	Array of Signed 64 bit integer
0x4008	AUINT64	Array of Unsigned 64 bit integer
0x4009	AINT128	Array of Signed 128 bit integer
0x400A	AUINT128	Array of Unsigned 128 bit integer
0xFFFF	STR	Variable-length Unicode String
<i>Above are PTP defined data type code, below are SPTCCP extended data code:</i>		
0x8001	REAL	Contains two INT32 integers (numerator, denominator)
0x8002	StructDeviceInfo	DeviceInfo structure
0x8003	StrDateTime	ISO8601 date time string in Unicode, "YYYYMMDDThmmss.s"

[0066] In SPTCCP, Real numbers types as shown in the table above are generally stored as two parts within a structure. The numerator and denominator are members of the structure. The structure for real numbers can be defined as follows:

```
typedef struct _REAL {
    UINT32    numerator;
    UINT32    denominator;
} structREAL;
```

[0067] As indicated in the data types table above, another type that is use for storing important device information is a structure that is returned through the GetDeviceInfo operation that was previously discussed. The structure is of variable length but it is recommended in an embodiment of this invention that vendors limit the size of this structure to be smaller than $260-16-16 = 228$ bytes. This is because earlier versions of Windows limit the data buffer size to 260-16 for IOCTL commands, and SCSI commands will also need at least 16 bytes for Mode Page headers. Although other implementations of this protocol may have no buffer size limit, the act of limiting the size will help the device to get backward compatibility. The device information structure may be defined as follows:

```
typedef struct _DeviceInfo {
```

```

5         UINT16      StandardVersion;
        UINT32      VendorExtensionID;
        UINT16      VendorExtensionVersion;
        STR         VendorExtensionDesc;
        UINT16      FunctionalMode;
10        AUINT16     OperationSupported; // OperationCode Array
        AUINT16     EventsSupported; // EventCode Array
        AUINT16     DevicePropertiesSupported; // DevicePropCode Array
        AUINT16     CaptureFormats; // ObjectFormatCode Array
15        AUINT16     ImageFormats; // ObjectFormatCode Array
        STR         Manufacturer;
        STR         Model;
        STR         DeviceVersion;
20        STR         SerialNumber
    } structDeviceInfo
```

[0068] The required content of this structure is self evident from the named members above to one skilled in the art.

[0069] The present invention has been described in connection with exemplary embodiments which are intended to be illustrative rather than restrictive. For example, the invention has been described in the context of controlling a Mass Storage Class Digital Camera (MSC) from within the operating system of a PC on a USB medium. The protocol could just as easily relate to many other types of communications medium, such as a network cable or other forms of connectivity between a Digital class storage device and a PC.

[0070] Alternative embodiments of the present invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art to which it pertains upon review of the specification, including the drawing figures. Accordingly, the scope of the present invention is defined by the appended claims rather than the foregoing description.

Claims

- 35 1. A method for use in a computing device operating with an operating system for controlling a mass storage class digital imaging device comprising:
 - providing a control command that is interpretable by the mass storage class digital imaging device;
 - 40 packaging said command; and
 - transmitting said packaged command to the mass storage class digital imaging device.
- 45 2. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising receiving said packaged command at the mass storage class digital imaging device.
3. A method as recited in claim 2 further comprising unpackaging said packaged command.
- 50 4. A method as recited in claim 3 further comprising implementing said control command at the mass storage class digital imaging device.
5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said control command comprises:
 - 55 a standard Picture Transfer Protocol (PTP) command; and
 - extended commands that are specific to the mass storage class digital imaging device.

6. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said packaging includes packaging said control command in a SCSI command, said packaging comprising:

5 providing entries in a SCSI Pass through structure;
 providing entries and values for a command descriptor block within said SCSI Pass through structure; and
 providing data buffers to hold resulting information.

- 10 7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein said transmitting is via a USB protocol.

8. A method for use in a computing device operating with an operating system for communicating control commands between an application program and a USB mass storage class digital imaging device comprising:

15 generating a device specific control command in a computing environment upon interaction with the application program;

 transmitting said command as a SCSI pass through command via a USB channel to the USB device;

20 interpreting said SCSI Pass through commands; and

 executing the command on the USB device.

- 25 9. A method as recited in claim 8 wherein said specific control command is one of a plurality of available commands associated with the USB device and wherein said execution of said command results in at least one action by the USB device.

- 30 10. A method for use in a computing system for communicating between an application program and a USB mass storage class imaging device for controlling said device wherein information about said device is stored and returned in a data structure comprising:

 a data field containing data representing a firmware version;

35 a plurality of data fields containing data representing vendor extension information;

 a data field containing data representing a functional mode of the device;

 a data field containing data representing supported operations of by the device;

40 a data field containing data representing supported events relating to communication;

 a data field containing data representing supported device properties.

45 a data field containing data representing information capture formats;

 a data field containing data representing supported image formats;

 a data field containing data representing the manufacturer of said device;

50 a data field containing data representing the model of said device;

 a data field containing data representing the version of said device; and

55 a data field containing data representing the serial number of said device.

11. A method for use in a mass storage class digital imaging device controllable by a computing device, said mass storage class digital imaging device receiving a command from the computing device, said command including a packaged control command interpretable by the imaging device, said command being unpackaged and imple-

mented to control said mass storage class digital imaging device.

12. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

5 13. A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, said processor being operable to execute the instructions stored on the computer-readable medium of claim 12.

14. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 8.

10 15. A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, said processor being operable to execute the instructions stored on the computer-readable medium of claim 14.

16. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10.

15 17. A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, said processor being operable to execute the instructions stored on the computer-readable medium of claim 16.

18. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

20 19. A computer system having a memory, an operating system and a central processor, said processor being operable to execute the instructions stored on the computer-readable medium of claim 18.

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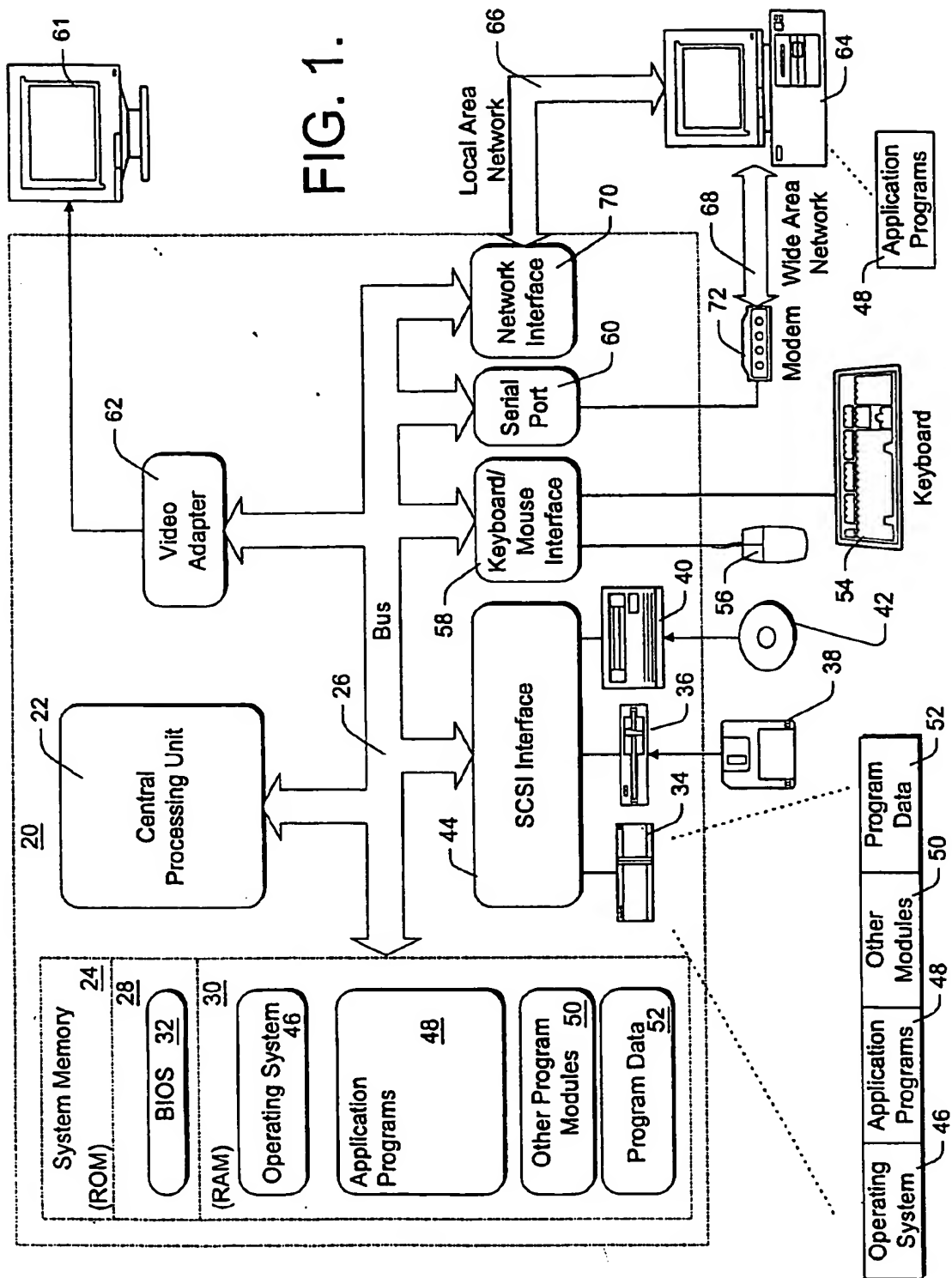
40

45

50

55

FIG. 1.



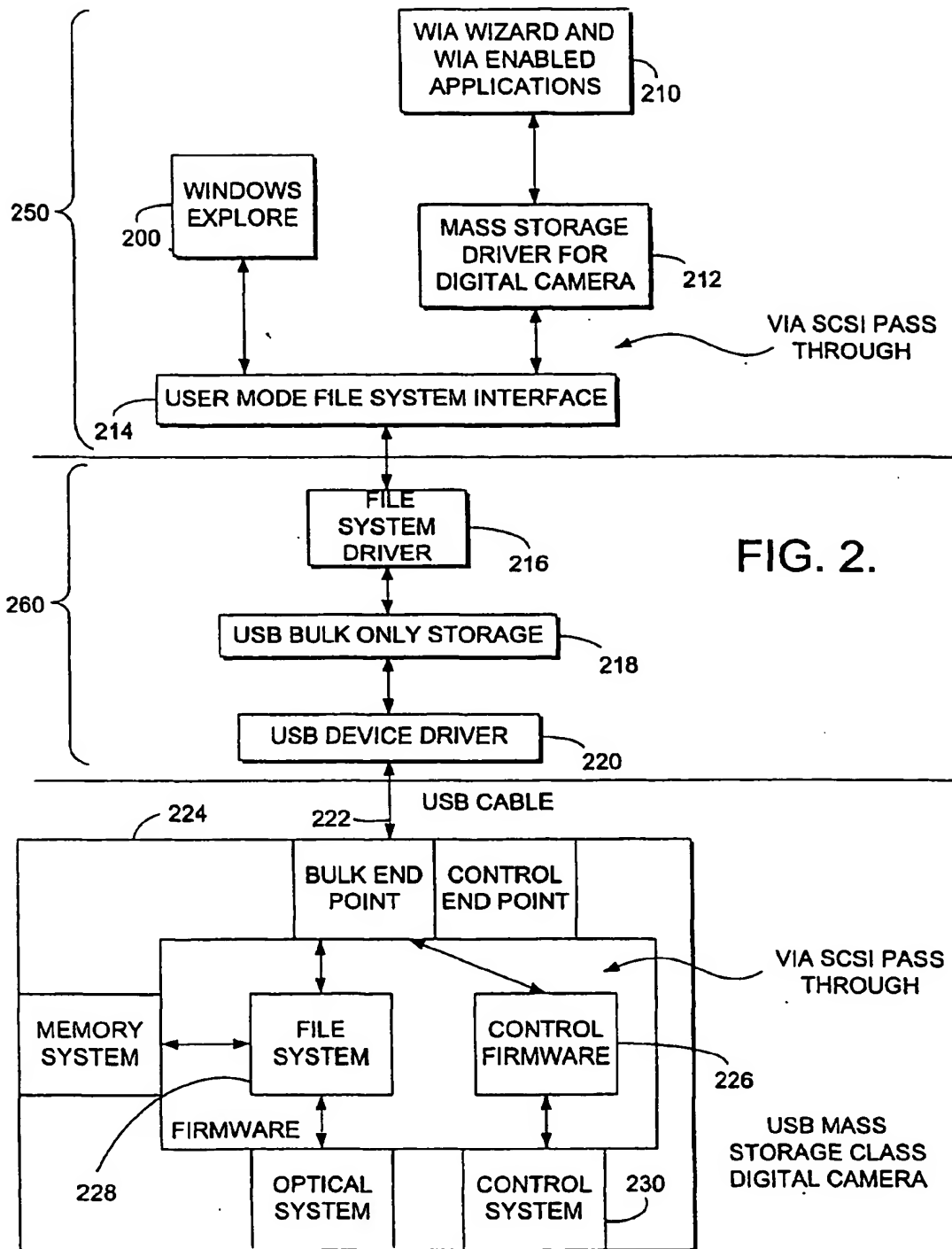


FIG. 2.

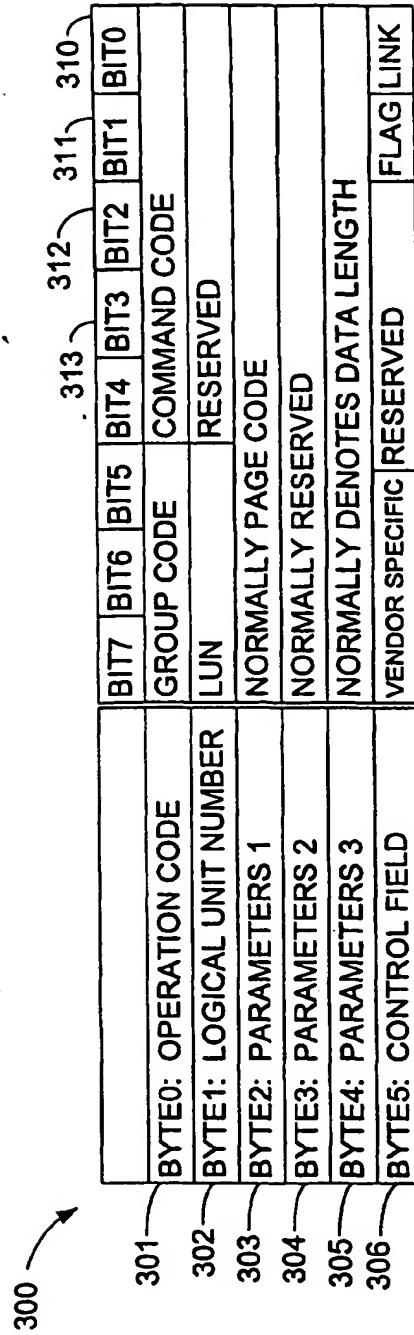
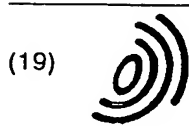


FIG. 3.



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(71) Applicant: MICROSOFT CORPORATION
Redmond, WA 98052 (US)

(72) Inventors:
• Camara, Franc. J.
Redmond, Washington 98052 (US)
• Yuan, Po
Renton, Washington 98056 (US)
• Sadovsky, Vladimir
Bellevue, Washington 98005 (US)

(74) Representative: Grünecker, Kinkeldey,
Stockmair & Schwanhäusser Anwaltssozietät
Maximilianstrasse 58
80538 München (DE)

(54) System and method for controlling mass storage class digital imaging devices

(57) A method is provided for controlling a Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Device using a SCSI pass through protocol. The protocol is based on industry standard SCSI protocol with modifications and extensions to allow transparent communication over a medium and is referred to as SCSI Pass Through (SPT). This protocol defines a set of commands that are initiated in a computer. The commands also include and extend in-

dustry standard Picture Transfer Protocol and are targeted for application and execution in a Mass Storage Class Digital Imaging Device. The invention includes the definition of 'data buffers' in the form of data structures that can be used for passing and receiving information related to the digital imaging device. The protocol is applicable to communication mediums that can be utilized in connecting any digital storage device to a computing device.

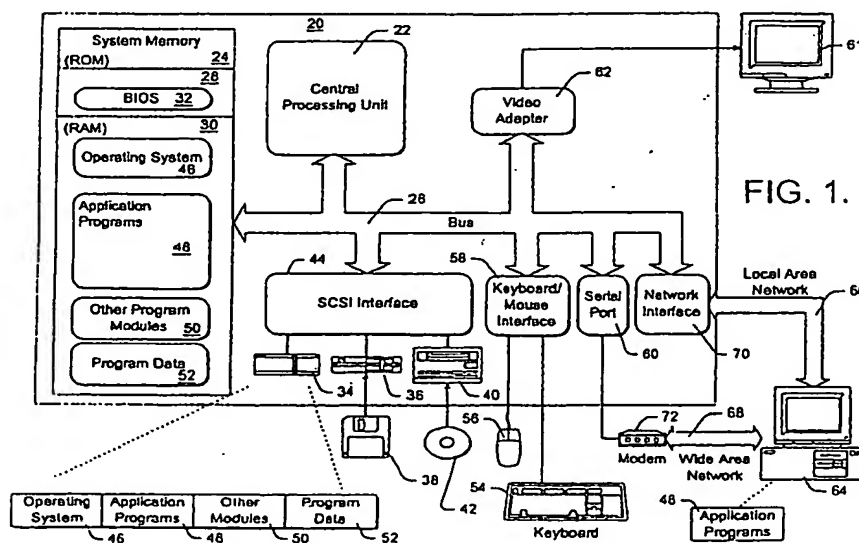


FIG. 1.



European Patent
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 12 4147

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
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A	WO 99/60786 A (INTEL CORP ; TOMASZEWSKI EDWARD P (US)) 25 November 1999 (1999-11-25) * abstract *	7	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 20 December 2004	Examiner Hazel, J
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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Application Number

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CLAIMS INCURRING FEES

The present European patent application comprised at the time of filing more than ten claims.

☐ Only part of the claims have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims and for those claims for which claims fees have been paid, namely claim(s):

☐ No claims fees have been paid within the prescribed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for the first ten claims.

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

see sheet B

☒ All further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for all claims.

☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the Search Division did not invite payment of any additional fee.

☐ Only part of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the inventions in respect of which search fees have been paid, namely claims:

☐ None of the further search fees have been paid within the fixed time limit. The present European search report has been drawn up for those parts of the European patent application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims, namely claims:



European Patent
Office

LACK OF UNITY OF INVENTION
SHEET B

Application Number

EP 01 12 4147

The Search Division considers that the present European patent application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention and relates to several inventions or groups of inventions, namely:

1. claims: 1-7,11-13,18,19

Method for controlling an imaging device from a computing device where control commands are standard Picture Transfer Protocol (PTP) commands and extended commands.

2. claims: 8-10,14-17

Method for communicating control commands to a USB imaging device

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. 9 812 417

EP 01 12 4147

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
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20-12-2004

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EPO FORM P459

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

